

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5-8, 11-21, 24, 26, 28, and 29 are pending.

Claims 3, 11, and 17-21 have been canceled.

Claims 5-8, 12-16, 24, 26, 28, and 29 have been rejected.

Claims 24, 26, and 30 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Response to Office Communication

Applicants express thanks for the indication that the claims are in condition for allowance. As requested by the Examiner, claims 3, 11, and 17-21 have been canceled.

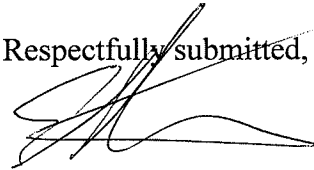
Claims 24, 26, and 30 have been amended to correct a typographical error (replacing a final “;” with a “.”). Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments remain in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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